

Birds of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve

This is a list of 212 bird species found in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve. The park contains 13.2 million acres, including both marine shoreline near Yakutat and vast expanses of wild, interior Alaska with boreal spruce forests, muskegs, alder thickets, alpine meadows, icefields, and glacial barrens.

Long summer days and abundant habitats lure long distance migrants through the Copper River Valley each spring. Trumpeter swans, Canada geese, and a myriad of other water-fowl and shorebirds begin arriving in April. By early May, park forests are alive with birdsong as warblers and thrushes establish nesting territories and find mates. By August, many species are already beginning their return to southern wintering grounds.

As days shorten and the frigid winter of the Alaskan interior arrives, only the hardiest 34 species remain. Foraging chickadees, redpolls, and grosbeaks can be seen and heard on all but the coldest of days.

As one of the largest wilderness areas in the world, and with limited road access, this rugged area offers both unique challenges and rich rewards to the casual observer and seasoned birder alike. A journey along either the 60-mile McCarthy Road or 40-mile Nabesna Road will provide for many opportunities to enjoy summer’s bird pageantry in spectacular settings.

Stop by any park visitor center to ask about recent sightings and check on road conditions before heading out.

Species	Interior	Coastal
<u>Loons</u>		
___ Common Loon	*C (1,2)	*C (1)
___ Yellow-billed Loon	+ (1,3)	*R (1,2)
___ Pacific Loon	*C (1,3)	*C (1,3,4)
___ Red-throated Loon	*U (1,2,3)	C (1,2,3)
<u>Grebes</u>		
___ Red-necked Grebe	*C (1,2,3)	*C (1,3)
___ Horned Grebe	*C (1,2,3)	C (1,3,4)
<u>Albatrosses</u>		
___ Black-footed Albatross	--	C (1,2,3)
___ Laysan Albatross	--	R (1,2,3)
<u>Shearwaters</u>		
___ Northern Fulmar	--	C (1,2,3)
___ Pink-footed Shearwater	--	R (1,2,3)
___ Sooty Shearwater	--	C (1,2,3)
___ Short-tailed Shearwater	--	C (2)
___ Mottled Shearwater	--	U (1,2,3)
<u>Storm-petrels</u>		
___ Fork-tailed Storm-petrel	+ (3)	C (1,2,3)
___ Leach’s Storm-petrel	--	R (1,2,3,)
<u>Cormorants</u>		
___ Double-crested Cormorant	+ (2)	*C (1,2,3)
___ Pelagic Cormorant	--	*C (1,2,3,4)
___ Red-faced Cormorant	--	C (1,2,3,4)
<u>Herons</u>		
___ Great Blue Heron	--	*U (1,2,3,4)
<u>Swans, Geese and Ducks</u>		
___ Tundra Swan	*C (1,3)	*C (1,3)
___ Trumpeter Swan	*C (1,2,3)	C (1,2,3)
___ Canada Goose	*C (1,2,3)	*C (1,2,3)
___ Brant	+ (1)	*C (2)
___ Emperor Goose	--	R (4)
___ Snow Goose	*C ((1,3)	*C (1,3)
___ Greater White-fronted Goose	*C ((1,3)	*C (1,3)
___ Mallard	*C (1,2,3)	*C (1,2,3,4)
___ Gadwall	R (1,2,3)	C (1,3)
___ Northern Pintail	*C (1,2,3)	*C (1,2,3)
___ Green-winged Teal	*C (1,2,3)	*C (1,2,3)
___ Blue-winged Teal	*U (1,3)	*R (1,2,3)
___ Northern Shoveler	*C (1,2,3)	*C (1,2,3)
___ American Wigeon	*C (1,2,3)	*C (1,2,3)
___ Eurasian Wigeon	*R (1)	R (1)
___ Canvasback	*U (1,2,3)	C (1,2,3)
___ Ring-necked Duck	*U (1,2,3)	R (1,2,3,4)
___ Greater Scaup	*C (1,2,3)	*C (1,2,3,4)
___ Lesser Scaup	*C (1,2,3)	R (1,2,3)
___ Redhead	*U (1, 3)	*R (1,2,3)
___ Common Goldeneye	*C (1,2,3)	*C (1,2,3)
___ Barrow’s Goldeneye	*C (1,2,3)	*C (1,2,3,4)
___ Bufflehead	*C (1,2,3)	C (1,2,3)

Species	Interior	Coastal
___ Harlequin Duck	*C (1,2,3)	*C (1,2,3,4)
___ Common Eider	--	R (1,2,3,4)
___ King Eider	--	R (4)
___ Steller’s Eider	--	R (4)
___ Oldsquaw	*C (1,3)	*C (1,3,4)
___ Black Scoter	R (1,2,3)	*C (1,3,4)
___ White-winged Scoter	*C (1,2,3)	*C (1,2,3,4)
___ Surf Scoter	*C (1,2,3)	*C (1,2,3,4)
___ Hooded Merganser	R (1,2,3)	R (1,2,3)
___ Red-breasted Merganser	*U (1,2,3,4)	*C (1,2,3,4)
___ Common Merganser	*R (1,2,3,4)	*C (1,2,3,4)
<u>Birds of Prey</u>		
___ Bald Eagle	*C (1,2,3)	*C (1,2,3,4)
___ Northern Harrier	*U (1,2,3)	*C (1,2,3)
___ Sharp-Shinned Hawk	*C (1,2,3)	*C (1,2,3)
___ Northern Goshawk	*U (1,2,3,4)	*U (1,2,3,4)
___ Red-tailed Hawk	*C (1,2,3,4)	*R (1,2,3)
___ Swainson’s hawk	R (1,2,3)	+(1, 3)
___ Rough-legged Hawk	*C (1,3,4)	*R (1,3)
___ Golden Eagle	*C (1,2,3,4)	R (1,2,3,4)
<u>Falcons</u>		
___ American Kestrel	*U (1,2,3)	*R (1,3)
___ Merlin	*U (1,2,3)	*R (1,2,3,4)
___ Peregrine Falcon	*R (1,2,3)	*R (1,2,3,4)
___ Gyrfalcon	*U (1,2,3,4)	R (1,2,3,4)
<u>Grouse</u>		
___ Spruce Grouse	*C (1,2,3,4)	R (1,2,3,4)
___ Ruffed Grouse	R (1,2,3,4)	--
___ Willow Ptarmigan	*C (1,2,3,4)	*U (1,2,3,4)
___ Rock Ptarmigan	*C (1,2,3,4)	C (1,2,3,4)
___ White-tailed Ptarmigan	*U (1,2,3,4)	R (1,2,3,4)
___ Sharp-Tailed Grouse	*C (1,2,3,4)	--
<u>Cranes</u>		
___ Sandhill Crane	*C (1,3)	C (1,3)
<u>Coots</u>		
___ American Coot	R (1,2,3)	+ (1,2,3)
<u>Plovers</u>		
___ Semi-palmated Plover	*C (1,2,3)	*C (1,2,3)
___ Killdeer	R (1,2,3)	R (1,2,3)
___ Lesser Golden Plover	*C (1,2,3)	C (1,3)
___ Black-bellied Plover	R (1,2,3)	C (1,3)
<u>Oystercatchers</u>		
___ American Black Oystercatcher	--	*C (1,2,3)
<u>Shorebirds</u>		
___ Hudsonian Godwit	R (1)	U (1,2,3)
___ Whimbrel	*U (1,2,3)	C (1,3)
___ Greater Yellowlegs	*U (1,2,3)	*C (1,2,3)
___ Lesser Yellowlegs	*C (1,2,3)	*C (1,2,3)
___ Solitary Sandpiper	*U (1,2,3)	U (1,3)

Species	Interior	Coastal
___ Upland Sandpiper	*C (1,2,3)	*C (1,2,3)
___ Wandering Tattler	*U (1,2,3)	C (1,3)
___ Short-billed Dowitcher	--	C (1,2,3)
___ Long-billed Dowitcher	*C (1,3)	C (1,3)
___ Red Phalarope	+ (1,2)	C (1,3)
___ Red-necked Phalarope	*C (1,2,3)	*C (1,2,3)
___ Common Snipe	*C (1,2,3)	*C (1,2,3)
___ Surfbird	*U (1,2,3)	C (1,3)
___ Ruddy Turnstone	R (1)	C (1)
___ Black Turnstone	+ (2,3)	C (1,3)
___ Rock Sandpiper	--	C (1,3,4)
___ Pectoral Sandpiper	*C (1,3)	C (1,3)
___ Red Knot	+ (1)	C (1)
___ Dunlin	+ (1,2,3)	C (1,3)
___ Sanderling	R (1,3)	*U (1,2,3)
___ Baird’s Sandpiper	*U (1,2,3)	U (1,3)
___ Semipalmated Sandpiper	*C (1,3)	*U (1,3)
___ Least Sandpiper	*C (1,2,3)	*C (1,2,3)
___ Western Sandpiper	*R (1,3)	*C (1,3)
<u>Jaegers, Gulls and Terns</u>		
___ Parasitic Jaeger	R (2)	*C (2,3)
___ Pomarine Jaeger	+ (2)	C (1,3)
___ Long-tailed Jaeger	*C (1,2,3)	R (1,2,3)
___ Glaucous Gull	R (1,2,3)	R (1,2,3,4)
___ Glaucous-winged Gull	R (2,3)	*C (1,2,3,4)
___ Herring Gull	*U (1,2,3)	*C (1,3)
___ Thayer’s Gull	--	R (1,2,3,4)
___ Ring-billed Gull	*R (1,2,3)	R (1,2,3,4)
___ Mew Gull	*C (1,2,3)	*C (1,2,3,4)
___ Black-legged Kittiwake	+ (3)	*C (1,2,3)
___ Bonaparte’s Gull	*U (1,2,3)	*C (1,2,3)
___ Sabine’s Gull	+ (2)	U (1,3)
___ Arctic Tern	*U (1,2,3)	*C (1,2,3)
___ Aleutian Tern	--	*U (1,2,3)
<u>Diving Seabirds</u>		
___ Common Murre	+ (4)	*C (1,2,3,4)
___ Think-billed Murre	--	R (1,2,3,4)
___ Pigeon Guillemot	--	*C (1,2,3,4)
___ Horned Puffin	--	U (1,2,3)
___ Tufted Puffin	--	C (1,2,3)
___ Rhinoceros Auklet	--	R (1,2,3,4)
___ Crested Auklet	+ (3)	R (4)
___ Cassin’s Auklet	--	R (1,2,3)
___ Marbled Murrelet	--	*C (1,2,3,4)
___ Kittlitz’s Murrelet	--	*C (1,2,3)
___ Ancient Murrelet	--	*R (1,2,3,4)
___ Parakeet Auklet	--	R (1,2,3)
<u>Owls</u>		
___ Great Horned Owl	*C (1,2,3,4)	C (1,2,3,4)
___ Snowy Owl	*R (1,4)	U (4)
___ Northern Hawk Owl	*C (1,2,3,4)	*C (4)
___ Great Grey Owl	*R (1,2,3,4)	R (1,2,3,4)
___ Short-eared Owl	*U (1,2,3)	*C (1,2,3)
___ Boreal Owl	*C (1,2,3,4)	U (1,2,3,4)